

JOINT REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958.To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1958 which has been prepared jointly with the Public Health Inspector.

RICHARD H. JOBSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

1. Statistics of the area.

Area (in acres).....	51,892
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book 1958).....	640
Population .....	2,170
Rateable Value. (as at 31.12.58).....	£10,335
Sum represented by a ld. rate .....	£41

2. Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) Live Births (legitimate) .....	25	12	13
" " (illegitimate) .....	-	-	-
TOTALS	25	12	13
(b) Still Births (legitimate) .....	1	-	1
" " (illegitimate) .....	-	-	-
(c) <u>Infant Mortality</u>			
(i) Death of infants under 1 year	1	1	-
(ii) " " " " 4 weeks	1	1	-
(iii) " from puerperal causes	-	-	-

(d) Causes of death - Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	2
18. Coronary disease angina	2	2	-
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	-
20. Other heart disease	4	4	-
21. " Ciculatory disease	3	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1	-
	20	17	3

3. Infectious and other diseases.

In the early part of the year, the area was afflicted with the usual seasonal influenza epidemic. During the latter part of the year, an epidemic of mumps and chickenpox was affecting the area but the cases were mild, and no special action was called for on their account.

4. Tuberculosis.

The County Medical Officer deals with all aspects of this disease.

5. National Health Service Act, 1946.

The County Council is the responsible Authority for the execution of this Act.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and the Public Analyst's Laboratory at Carmarthen.

(b) Ambulance Services.

The County Ambulance headquarters are at the County Hospital, Llandrindod Wells. This ambulance has to be used even when cases are being sent out of the County principally to the County Hospital, Hereford.

(c) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

(d) Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Centre is at Walton, and is attended monthly by the District Medical Officer.

The following portion of this report has been compiled by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :-

Water Supplies.

Samples of public and private water supplies have been taken, and where necessary advice has been given and work carried out to improve existing supplies. Occasionally some of the spring sources feeding public supplies become polluted, but every effort is made to eliminate the cause of pollution.

It is unfortunate that there are still so many individual springs to be maintained, and that the quantity of water from them falls short of the requirements for the area to be served. An abundant piped water supply would lead to greater development of the area and a vast improvement to the living conditions in existing dwellings.

Llandegley and Penybont Scheme - This is a joint scheme with the Rhayader R.D. Council for obtaining water from the Birmingham Aqueduct. Work has been completed on the installation of water mains in this parish, and an abundant water supply is now available to properties convenient to the main road.

Franksbridge Scheme. - This scheme is for the abstraction of water from the River Edw. So as to eliminate filtration, an attempt was made to obtain water from a trial hole sunk adjacent to the River Edw. This proved unsuccessful and provision is now being made for water to be taken direct from river, filtered, and then pumped up to the surface reservoir.

New Radnor (Extended) Scheme - This scheme is for the abstraction of water from stream in Harley Valley. The Ministry decided to hold a Public Local Inquiry before finally approving the Draft Order for the abstraction of water from this stream. This Inquiry was held in the Town Hall, New Radnor on the 5th March, 1958. The Order was eventually approved and the Consulting Engineers were proceeding with the preparation of Contract drawings and documents for submission to the Ministry, prior to going to tender. It was also agreed to purchase the sites for two reservoirs and the intake area.

Progress on this scheme has been far too slow and inhabitants of the area to be supplied will experience further shortages of water and other inconveniences that this entails.

Newchurch - Owing to the increased demand for water from houses and farms outside this village, the Council agreed to appoint Consulting Engineers to consider and draw-up a scheme for a piped water supply for this area.



### Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Two small sewerage disposal plants are in operation in the district, dealing with sewerage from Council housing estates. A third disposal plant is under construction at Llandegley village to receive sewerage from a new housing site and also from some of the existing private houses and school in the area. Remainder of district is drained into septic tanks and soakaways.

Due to a nuisance being created at one of their housing sites (following the erection of two additional houses), the Council agreed to instal a new effluent soakaway drain. This work was carried out and nuisance has been remedied.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by private contract. A monthly collection is maintained from all properties putting out their refuse beside classified roads. Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on three separate sites. One of the existing refuse tips is nearly filled up and the Council will have to look for an alternative site in the near future.

Litter Bins have been placed on two of the main roads passing through the district at points where road-users frequently stop and picnic.

### Rodent Control.

A useful rodent destruction service is being maintained in the district, the rodent operator being employed jointly with Kington U.D. Council. A systematic survey of the district is carried out, and all infestations discovered are treated. Dwellinghouses receive a free service, but treatments to business premises (including farms) are chargeable.

### Housing.

- (a) Council Houses - The total number of Council houses in the area is 36. Work has commenced on the erection of a further 6 houses in the parish of Llandegley. Two of the existing Council houses in the parish of New Radnor have been improved by the installation of piped hot water supplies to sink and bath.
- (b) Improvement Grants - During the year, the Council have given approval to five improvement grants amounting to £1,542.

Several farm houses have also been repaired and improved with the aid of grants from the Ministry of Agriculture. Satisfactory co-operation is being maintained with the Ministry in regard to the improvement of farm dwellings.

- (c) Housing Survey - A full-time official has been appointed jointly with Kington U.D. Council and Woobley R.D. Council to carry out the housing survey in the area. One month in every four is being spent in the district. A total of 522 houses have so far been inspected and placed in the following categories :-

<u>Category</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>No. of houses</u>	83	75	295	13	56

- (d) Caravan Sites - Six individual caravan sites have been licensed for a period of three years. These are being used as permanent homes, and they are well maintained.

A nuisance was being created by some caravan dwellers settling on common land. Following informal action, these people eventually "moved on" leaving behind all their rubbish.

- (e) Section 18 - Housing Act, 1957 - It was agreed to place a Closing Order on part of premises known as Corner House, Gladestry. The owner agreed not to re-let this part of the building as a separate dwelling.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Food Premises - There are 17 food premises in the district made up as follows :-

1 Butcher's shop  
1 Bakehouse  
7 Grocery Stores  
8 Public Houses

Total number of inspections carried out is 43.

Improvements have been carried out to two public houses and one grocery shop. In the case of one public house, improvements included the installation of additional sanitary accommodation for both sexes.

- (b) Section 14 - Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Total number of premises registered is 6, made up as follows :-

Premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream - 5  
(only prepacked ice-cream sold)

Premises for the preparation and sale of sausages, etc. - 1

Total number of inspections carried out is 18.

- (c) Meat and Food Inspection - There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district. All meat that is retailed in butchers shop or from meat vans coming into the district is slaughtered outside the district and inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

- (d) Milk Supply - All dairy premises in the district are occupied by producer/wholesalers, and they come under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The main milk retailer has his dairy premises situated outside the district.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Number of mechanical Factories - 9

Number of non-mechanical Factories - 3

Total number of inspections carried out is 24.